

Curtain closes on Commonwealth Games; Our shortcut to racism; Astronauts float back to Earth; and how polar bears keep cool in zoos.

Hello and welcome to Squiz Kids Today ... your fresh take on what's happening in the world around you.

I'm Bryce Corbett

It's Monday, August 3 -

In Squiz Kids today ... Curtain closes on Commonwealth Games; Our shortcut to racism; Astronauts float back to Earth; and how polar bears keep cool in zoos.

That's what's making news, kids' style ...

THE LOWDOWN

As Delta Goodrem takes the stage this morning to belt out a song at the closing ceremony of the 2026 Commonwealth Games, it will bring to a close a towering team effort by Australia - finishing the once-every-four-year-event well and truly on top of the medal tally.

At the time of recording this - Australia had won almost three times as many gold medals in Glasgow as second place getters, England. Which is a remarkable achievement for our home grown athletes and para-athletes. Take a bow!

Including our track and field team - who wrapped up competing on Saturday having enjoyed its most successful day in Comm Games history - winning seven gold and 17 medals in total in a single day.

From discus to walking, pole vaulting to sprinting - there was barely an athletics event that didn't see a green-and-gold clad competitor standing on the winner's podium - with a special mention to the men's 4x100m relay team who won gold for Australia in the hotly-contested event for the first time since 1974.

Not to be outdone: Australia's women runners claimed gold, silver and bronze in the women's mile final ..

With this morning's closing ceremony comes to an end 11 days of competition - plus a handover to the city of Ahmedabad in India - which is set to host the games in 2030.

As Olympic swimming great Cate Campbell summed it up yesterday, these Games have been a 'good chance for Australia to feel good about ourselves- we are a small country but we are mighty'.

Hear hear!

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Meanwhile: the TV news over the weekend was full of pictures of migrants from North Africa streaming over the border into Spain.

For the most part - these are people who have left their homes to try to find a better life - for themselves and their families.

But sometimes events like these - and the movement of people from one country to another - can give rise to uncomfortable feelings.

Multiculturalism is when different people from different cultural backgrounds live together in the same country. Australia is an example of a multi-cultural country.

But when times are tough and people look for someone to blame - it's often new arrivals who are blamed.

In a special Squiz Kids Shortcut on Understanding Racism, out on this podcast feed tomorrow - Christie and I take a look the reasons why racism exists, why our brains are hard wired to sort people into groups - and how, at the end of the day, despite how we might look on the outside - humans are 99.9 percent exactly the same on the inside.

SPIN THE GLOBE

Each day we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops. And today we've landed in Kazakhstan - smack bang in the middle of the continent of Asia - where three astronauts have landed safely back to earth after spending eight months in space aboard the International Space Station.

The trio have been up there above our heads, spinning in orbit around the earth, conducting scientific investigations - including cancer research and hi-tech computing experiments. One of them also ventured out of the space station whilst there and undertook not one, but two space walks - which is where they float around in space, tied to the space station - as it spins around the Earth at 28,000 kilometres per hour ...

Can you even imagine that?

And get this: in the 241 days they were up there, the astronauts orbited Earth - which is to say they went around it entirely - a remarkable 3,856 times - covering a distance of 164 million kilometres - or 102 million miles.

I'm getting dizzy just thinking about it ..

ANIMAL KINGDOM

And so to beautiful Prague we go - the capital of the Czech Republic in Europe - where zoo keepers have come up with a clever way to keep polar bears in the care cool ..

The European summer has been a hot one .. with heatwaves and wildfires across the continent .. and hot summers can be incredibly uncomfortable when you're a polar bear and your natural habitat is the icy waters of the Arctic circle and you are wrapped up in a big white furry coat.

And so zookeepers shipped in several tones of ice cubes for the polar bears, filling their enclosure with the chilly treat for the bears to roll around in.

I've stuck video of the polar bears rolling in ice in today's episode notes - they could not look happier ..

And yes, I was going to make a dad joke about heat and how it was for the bears to bear - but I didn't want to set off that pesky dad joke alarm ..

(DAD JOKE ALARM) ... sigh

POP CULTURE CORNER

Eastern rosellas, eastern rosellas ... look at the beautiful colours!

Don't mind me - I'm just jamming to the viral YouTube hit Eastern Rosellas - by seven year old Miles Phillips from Victoria ..

The song - dreamt up by Miles after feeding the colourful birds on his grandparent's verandah - has racked up hundreds of thousands of YouTube views and even been covered by well known rock artists ... when you make a 'cover' in musical terms, that means you do a version of the original ..

And now scientists have weighed in, examining exactly why the song is so catchy.

Turns out it's what's often referred to as an ear worm - which is exactly what it sounds like

A tune - which often has an easy to remember repetitive chorus or a series of catchy, yet simple repetitive musical notes - that worms its way into our ears and lodges in our memories.

Or maybe - as one musician put it over the weekend - it's simply a little burst of joy in a world that can otherwise seem a bit heavy.

SA JOB

Attention to our South Australian listeners .. especially those of the teacher and educator variety ... Newshounds is hiring.

We're about to launch an exciting new chapter of our award-winning media literacy program across primary schools in sunny South Australia - and we're looking for someone local - to help us roll it out.

Someone who knows the local landscape and is passionate about joining our mission to make Aussie kids the most media literate in the world.

You'll find a link to the job description in today's episode notes, or on the careers page of the big Squiz website - www.thesquiz.com.au

THE S'QUIZ

This is the part of the podcast where you get to test how well you've been listening ...

1. Name the country in central Asia where three astronauts landed after eight months in space.
2. The Comm Games have wrapped in Scotland - which country are they heading to in 2030?
3. Name the species of Australian native bird made YouTube famous by seven year old Miles Phillips?

SHOUTOUTS

It's Monday, August 3 – it's Picnic Day - a public holiday in Australia's northern territory - that sounds nice - and National Friendship Day in the United States - which also sounds nice.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow ... Willow from Singleton, Edward from Beaumont Hills, Sophia from Perth, Amelia from Baldivis, Victoria from Cambra, Ivy from Rosewood, Archer from Paddington, Felix from Hunters Hill and Layla from Heyfield.

Belated shoutouts go to ... Jessica from Yass and Liam from Watson

Classroom shoutouts go to ...class 4 Blue with Mr Murphy at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School in Bradbury, class 4RD with Mrs Rawson and Mrs Dwyer at Pennant Hills Public School and class 6B with Mrs Few at Yarrawonga P-12 College.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Kazakhstan
2. India
3. Eastern rosellas

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you'd like a shoutout, or if you want a classroom shoutout... drop us a line at squizkids@thesquiz.com.au or fill out the form on our website.

Well - that's all we have time for. Thanks for listening to Squiz Kids Today - we'll be back again tomorrow with a very special, very important Shortcut.

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In the meantime ... get out there and have a most excellent day ... over and out.